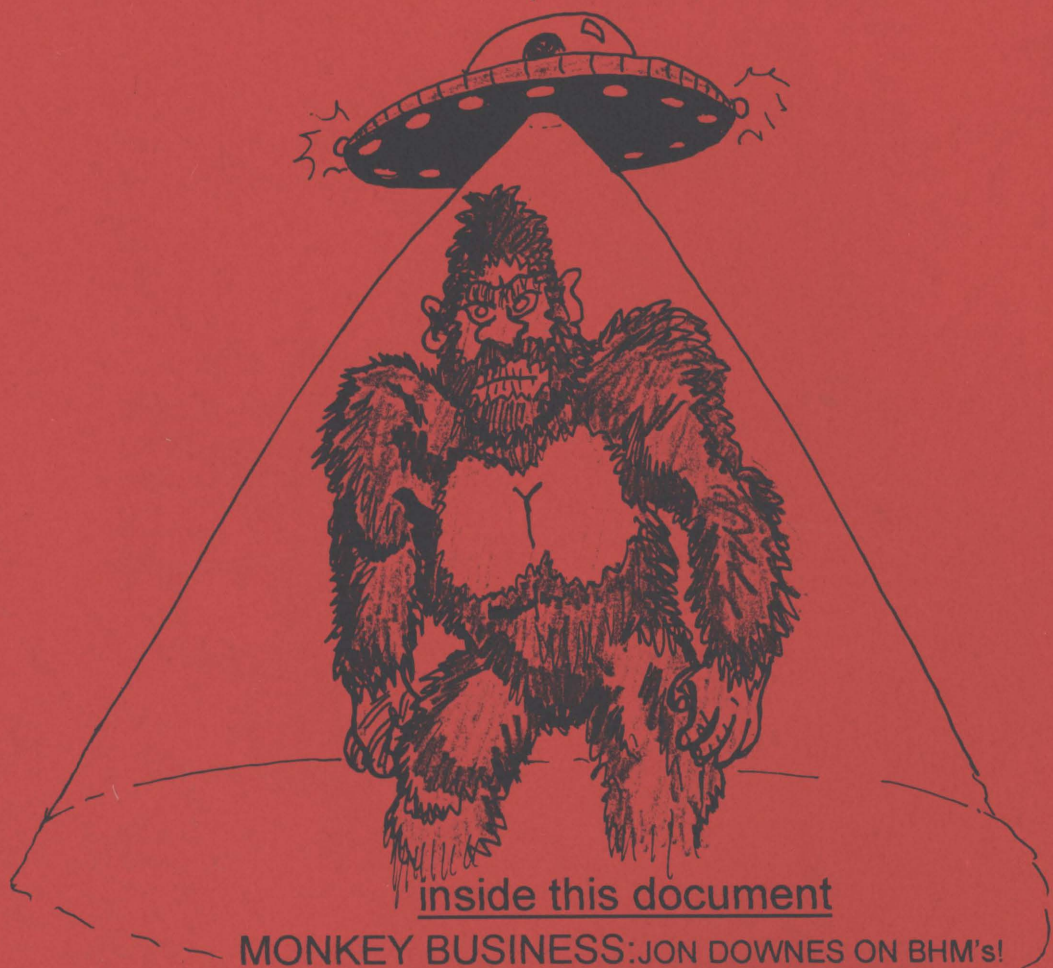
YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 6 # 9)



inside this document

MONKEY BUSINESS: JON DOWNES ON BHM's!

THE BIG GREY MAN (PART 3)

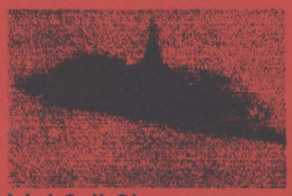
THE JENNY RANDLES COLUMN

TALKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

And much more...

£1:50

YUFOS



Vol 6 # 9)

CONTENTS

1) THE VIEW FROM BRITAIN
TESTING UFO – Jenny Randles gives a proposal for a web-based data-base of UFO information and ideas.

4) THE BIG GREY MAN OF BEN MACDHUI & OTHER MOUNTAIN PANICS (PART 3)
Andy Roberts continues his quest to determine the truth of BHM and other paranormal reports from the mysterious Scottish mountain

9) TOO MUCH MONKEY BUSINESS
Jon Downes on Big Hairy Monsters, Skunk-Apes and Chupacabras.

15) UFOs: SUB ROSA
Bill Chalker's epic study of the Australian Military & Government's interest in the UFO phenomenon. Was there any truth in the Fred Stone newspaper report of RAAF men confiscating UFO photographs?

18) ASKIN' BOLLOXINSKI
The USA's Most Maverick Paranormal and UFO Investigator™ answers questions on his favourite subject – himself.

20) CLASSIC CASE NOW ON-LINE
The Lakenheath case of 1959 – and its current in-depth investigation- is now on-line....Dave Clarke has the story.

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY
224 BELLHOUSE ROAD
FIRTH PARK
SHEFFIELD
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
S5 6HT
Tel (0114) 2497270
e-mail: davbak@blueyonder.co.uk
tomboll@blueyonder.co.uk
website www.yufos.org.uk

Subscriptions:

£14:00 - 12 issues (1 year)
£8:00 - 6 issues (6 months)
sample issue - £1:50

Project Red Book *is published by the Yorkshire UFO Society.*

Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most *Dave Baker*

Web-master, Group-secretary and Chauffeur to the Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most *Richard Moss*

They-Who-Printeth-The-Issues- *Slater Publications 2003*

Cover Illustration- *Dave Baker*

Treasurer- *Jacqui Baker*

Group Mascot- *Lil' Matthew*

Contributions: *Dave Baker, Tom Bolloxonski, Bill Chalker, Dave Clarke, Jon Downes, Jenny Randles, Andy Roberts*

All articles are copyrighted by the original authors and must not be re-published in any format without express pemission

The articles and views expressed in this magazine, particularly those of Tom Bolloxinski, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or YUFOS members.

"God!"..... "Smith will suffice."

A VIEW FROM BRITAIN

THE JENNY RANDLES COLUMN

(Originally published in The MUFON JOURNAL, April 2002)

(Editor's note - Please bear in mind the original date of publication. YUFOS extends its thanks to Jenny & to Dwight Connely, editor of The MUFON Journal, for permission to reproduce this work.)

TESTING UFO

There has been much talk recently about how to get science more interested in the study of UFOs, and the bottom line seems to be that science responds best to those who play the game by its own rules of evidence.

Scientists like to see theories being tested against evidence and research and experiments set up and conducted to either confirm or deny that theory. They denounce us for not trying - when in fact UFOlogy actually does quite a lot of this but the data is scattered far and wide and difficult for even the widely read to reign together.

That is half the problem. In a world where so many researchers are involved in the study of UFOs and their involvement occurs for a wide range of motives and their publications of evidence appear in countless sources then just how does one follow what is taking place?

Keeping track

I would suggest that maybe there is an opportunity to begin an active data base of theories and research. The best format for its operation would be through a web site that is policed by some person or group (basically just to eliminate the time wasters and practical jokers). Otherwise it should be open to anyone to post relevant information into an agreed format through the site's gatekeeper.

Here is what I have in mind.

Firstly, the site should exist for one purpose only - as an ongoing notice board for UFO theories and research. The idea being for any UFOlogist - regardless of their beliefs or their allegience to groups – to be free to post onto here with any research that they are conducting – or any research proposal that they believe someone ought to conduct - in order to help test a specific theory.

We might call this by the acronym T E S T I N G UFO - (this meaning Theories, Experiments, Suggested Trials & information gathering).

Testing UFO

Step one in the project is to create the Testing UFO web site to an agreed format with all the major groups offering to endorse and promote it. Will they do this - you may ask? But if they decline, we can legitimately ask why they would not since how will it damage any organisation to participate? So, let them shame themselves by opting out if they choose!

We might even (like the UN or European Union) rotate the site gatekeeper between major groups with each one taking on role and the cost of administration for, say, a one year period before passing on the baton to another. This would make Testing UFO a truly cooperative venture that serves the purpose of everyone and one that is not unduly burdensome on any single group or individual to keep it smoothly operating. But that is just a suggestion.

Once the format is agreed and the site designed then its purpose should be simultaneously announced by all participating groups and promoted through open UFO lists on the net - it then being immediately in operation so as to allow any UFOlogist to post onto it as often asthey wish.

Here is what I suggest that the Testing UFO site could contain.

Initially, a set of pages listing an agreed theory of UFO explanation. We could probably define the first 20 or so of these up front - ranging from the obvious ones, such as 'UFOs are advanced craft of alien origin', via other ideas such as 'UFOs are time travellers' and onto

more sceptically minded possibilities such as 'Misperceptions of mundane events' to 'Fantasy Prone Personality side effects', and so on.

There should be opportunity for people to suggest new theories and add these to the set of options provided that the suggestion is sensible. But there really should be few restrictions on possible theories to be awarded a set of pages because the whole idea is to allow the site to explore every serious research option and that only works if freedom of theorising is allowed.

For each theory that the site contains there should be a set of 'blank pages' on the site, with no space restrictions on any of them – allowing anyone to post as much as they wish onto the pages relevant to each theory. A short introductory paragraph could explain each theory - simply defining its terms - but this should not be more than a few lines long and may not even need to be more than a one-line definition of the theory.

Within the blank pages devoted by the site to each theory there then should be two sets of sub pages to which people can post (via the gatekeeper).

Firstly, pages to which people can contribute ideas that they may have to test that particular theory. For instance, someone might post to the 'Time Travellers' theory pages the following:

'In order to test the theory that UFOs are time travel vehicles visiting from our future we might suppose that there could be a link between interesting historical events and the levels of visitation. If so, then there should be evidence of a correlation between reported sighting numbers and the geographical and temporal occurrence of major historical events that might attract visitors from the future.'

Many ideas must occur to all researchers from time to time about the way to test a particular UFO theory. I am sure there are hundreds of them floating around now amongst those of you reading this column! Testing UFO will offer the notice board to post that suggestion (before you forget about it) and make it visible for others to read in the anticipation that someone might then pick up the idea and conduct an experiment built around it – even if you do not have the time or the inclination to do so.

If the UFO community actively uses the Testing UFO site to post suggestions as and when they emerge - for instance because of the results of a case that they are engaged in investigating or through something they have just read in a book or on the net that sparks their thinking – then these pages should provide a visible source of the flow of ideas to which any UFOlogist can turn from time to time to gain inspiration.

The second set of sub pages within each UFO theory on the Testing UFO site should be devoted to posting work in progress or summaries of completed projects. Any researcher who is sparked into doing an experiment to test - one way or the other - a particular one of the theories on the site should post their intentions and a brief outline of their planned protocol onto the relevant pages. They can then update this with added notes about progress whenever they choose.

Equally, any researcher who has already conducted an experiment that seems to offer evidence, one way or the other, towards establishing or disestablishing one of the theories on the site should post to those pages a brief summary of what they did and what they found out with references directing to a published source where the full data can be viewed.

In essence that is all there is to this idea.

Possibilities

Testing UFO is a simple idea but if used properly it can prove an invaluable source for thousands of people. It requires a dedicated gatekeeper to receive incoming posts, properly assign them to the correct pages on the site and to do so fairly often so as to keep the site lively. But the outcome, if the UFO community embraces this venture and uses it as it is intended, is full of possibilities.

The site will be the first truly pan UFOlogical venture that shuns any barriers imposed by nationality, group allegiance, skeptic or believer, witness or researcher - genuinely open to all - and it utilises the power of the internet in a very positive way.

Who knows what kind of ideas, research and experimental studies it will inspire and at a minimum it should help orientate UFOlogists towards thinking more scientifically. That alone makes the project worthwhile.

Plus, of course, once Testing UFO is up and running and hopefully proving itself as a posting board for all ongoing major projects it will allow everybody to keep track of who is doing what in order to try to prove which particular theory. That alone will be invaluable to UFOlogy. But moreover they can then seek to duplicate or extend this existing research and through the site give all of UFOlogy the opportunity to follow the state of play in terms of scientific research into all the major theories.

How can we lose? We all surely gain something here.

In my opinion the existence alone of a successfully operating Testing UFO site that is fulfilling the objectives set out above will be enough to interest some scientists and make others at least indisputably aware that UFOlogy is not a field filled with crackpots but an active, interactive and objective community aware of the way to gather scientific data. Any scientist that rejects UFOlogy in the light of this will have some explaining to do!

The only problem I can envisage is whether we are up to this challenge.

But if we are not then what are here for?

THE FOURTH ANNUAL WEIRD WEEKEND

The fourth annual Weird Weekend is to be held from the 3rd to the 5th (Friday-Sunday) of October at the Cowick Barton Inn, Cowick Lane, Exeter, Devon. Come and take part in the largest Fortean convention in the Westcountry.

Speakers include: **Dr Karl Shuker** on *prehistoric survivors*, **Colonel John Blashford-Snell** *on his many jungle adventures*, **Reg Presley** on *perpetual motion machines*, **Mark North** on *phantom highway men*, **Chris Moiser** on *sea serpents*, **Andy Roberts** on *man made UFOs*, **Adam Davies** on the *Mongolian death worm*, **Tim Matthews** on *King Arthur*, **Steve Jones** on *practical magic*, **Jon Downes** and **Richard Freeman** on *the monsters of The Gambia*, and **Richard Freeman** on *Orang-Pendek*.

Tickets are Friday – Sunday inclusive £15, or Friday- £10 / Saturday- £10 / Sunday- £10

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO CONTACT
The Centre for Fortean Zoology
15 Holne Court
Exwick
Exeter
Devon EX42NA
tel 01392 424811

Or look at our website
www.stormpages.com/weirdweekend
Or e-mail jon@eclipse.co.uk

THE BIG GREY MAN OF BEN MACDHUI &OTHER MOUNTAIN PANICS (part 3)

ANDY ROBERTS

'Though your nerves be of steel, and your mind says it cannot be, you will be acquainted with that fear without a name, that intense dread of the unknown that has pursued mankind from the very dawn of time.'
Richard Frere[1]

Joan Grant, spending the stalking season of 1928 in the Cairngorms with her husband, set off walking through the Rothiemurchus Forest towards the Cairngorms. The day was too hot for any serious climbing and so after a while they set off back down to Aviemore.

'Nothing could have been farther from my mind than spooks when suddenly I was seized with such terror that I turned and in panic fled back along the path. Leslie ran after me, imploring me to tell him what was wrong. I could only spare breath to tell him to run faster, faster. Something - utterly malign, four-legged and yet obscenely human, invisible and yet solid enough for me to hear the pounding of its hooves, was trying to reach me. If it did I should die, for I was far too frightened to know how to defend myself . I had about half a mile when I burst through an invisible barrier behind which I was safe. I knew I was safe now, though a second before I had been in mortal danger; knew it as certainly as though I were a torero who has jumped the barrier in front of a charging bull.'[44]

Grant's account frequently becomes entangled in BGM lore even though it took place several miles from the summit of Ben Macdhui, did not involve a sighting and was not witnessed by, or even conveyed to, her companion. Grant was a writer of historical fantasy who had a strong belief in reincarnation and similar ideas and it has been suggested that her encounter was more the product of a fertile mind than of any genuine experience.

Grant also notes that: 'A year later one of my Father's professors described an almost exactly similar experience he had when bug-hunting in the Cairngorms. He was a materialist, but he had been so profoundly startled that he wrote to The Times - and received a letter from a reader who had also been pursued by the 'Thing''.[45]

Affleck Gray checked The Times for the relevant period and I have done so myself. No account similar to the one mentioned by Grant appears to exist. This does not of course mean it was never printed, but it is typical of the sort of unfindable information which accretes around accounts of a fortean nature, where a key piece of information has been seen but then 'mysteriously' is untraceable. Allegations that Collie's experience appeared in a New Zealand newspaper are of a similar order. In the wider fortean field a good example is the mystery surrounding the famous 'Thunderbird' photograph, the search for which has become an item of fortean interest in itself! [46]

Speyside author Wendy Wood also had a bizarre experience below Ben Macdhui in the Lairig Ghru pass. This took place in 1940. Wood claims she heard '...an enormous echoing voice which seemed to use Gaelic words. It occurred to her that it might be the barking of a deer magnified by a freak echo. Latterly, the sound seemed to come from beneath her feet.' Although half convinced the sound had a natural origin Wood circled the area in case it was from an injured climber. As she did so she '...had an uneasy feeling of someone following her and taking gigantic strides. She ran away and did not pause until close to Whitwell when the barking of a dog brought her to her senses'.[47]

I have included this account for a number of reasons. It shows how easily experiences become connected to the BGM legend even when they start with something such as an undefined noise. Wood claimed no knowledge of Collie or Kellas' experiences at the time and yet, if we believe her account, developed a similar experience leading her to panic and flee.

These accounts are the main body of experiences comprising the BGM experiences. Explanations for the BGM have been tossed to

and for in numerous editions of many Scottish newspapers as the interest in the BGM has risen and fallen. Books such as Gray's detail theories ranging from the BGM as space-visitor or faerie-like elemental to outright hoax. No real evidence is ever put forward to back these claims up and they rest entirely on belief and speculation. One of the main contentions has been that the experiences are evidence of a flesh and blood creature of the same type as the Yeti, Bigfoot or Alma[48]. I doubt this very much. Even being charitable with the evidence and broadening the content of acceptable cases to include anecdote and third and fourth hand stories within a twenty mile radius of Ben Macdhui, it is almost certain that the BGM is not a corporeal creature. There are no photographs, no bones, no fur or skin samples, no evidence of a family group, no droppings, no evidence of any predatory action on the local mammal population. Not even a reasonable number of good consistent accounts seen within a defined area.

Although the Cairngorm plateau is a wild, oft-inhospitable place, since the boom in outdoor activities of the last thirty years or so the area is frequently visited by relatively large numbers of people at all times of day, night and year. It seems logical that if the BGM was physical in nature *some* tangible evidence would have come to light by now. When dealing with the possibility of other large relict hominids such as the Yeti etc. being flesh and blood creatures the argument is considerably strengthened by the existence, however ambiguous, of photographs, videos, footprint casts, skin and hair samples etc. None of these exist in respect of the BGM and until they do it is reasonable to assume that we are not dealing with a physical creature.

However, when considering any physical evidence connected to the BGM it is worth noting that some accounts refer to photographs of unknown footprints taken in the Spey Valley.[49] Although the location of the photographs is some fifteen miles from the summit of Ben Macdhui it has been claimed or inferred by some writers that they may of the BGM. Indeed Rennie cites a ghillie as saying (upon seeing the footprints) they were 'Bodach tracks'[50]. This comment, made by a local man may indicate the survival of a tradition connecting unexplained phenomena to the legendary 'Bodach' or old man, of wider Scottish legend. As these tracks have been proffered as physical evidence for the BGM in the literature they and their possible origins need addressing.

The source of these photographs is the book *Romantic Speyside*, by J.A. Rennie. Rennie describes how on December 2nd 1952 about a mile outside the village of Cromdale, he came across mysterious tracks which:

'...were running across a stretch of snow covered moorland, each print 19 inches long by about 14 inches wide and there must have been all of seven feet between each "stride". There was no differentiation between a left and a right foot, and they preceded in an approximately single line.'[51]

Rennie likens them to the mysterious 'Devil's Hoofprints' found in Devon during the winter of 1855, which have a been a Fortean staple for years.[52] Rennie followed the tracks for about half a mile, until they 'terminated at the foot of a pine tree, for all the world as though the strange creature making them had leapt up into the foliage of the tree.' Twenty yards further on he picked the tracks up again and followed them across a field and down to the river's edge where they terminated opposite the village churchyard. Rennie rushed home for his camera and showed the resulting photographs to baffled locals. Writers often cite Rennie's photographs as evidence for the BGM case but fail to quote further from his account at this point, which is regrettable as he goes on to give highly useful information.

Whilst working in Northern Canada in the 1920s Rennie came across similar tracks whilst crossing a frozen lake. These tracks reduced his French-Canadian companion to a state of gibbering terror as he believed them to belong to the Wendygo, a Bigfoot-like creature. Rennie was baffled by the tracks until later that winter when he saw the mysterious tracks for the second time. But on this occasion he saw them being made.

'There on the flawless, smooth white of the snow, a whole succession of tracks in "line-astern" were appearing miraculously before my eyes. No sign of life anywhere, no movement even, other than the drifting clouds overhead and those tracks springing suddenly into being as they came inexorably towards me. I stood stock-still, filled with reasonless panic. The tracks were being made within 50 yards of me -20-10-then, smack! I swung round brushing the water from my eyes, and saw the tracks continuing across the lake. In that moment I knew that the Wendygo,

Abominable Snowman, Bodach Mor, or what have you, was forever explained so far as I was concerned.'[53]

Rennie went on to give his explanation of the cause both of those tracks and the ones he had seen many years later in Speyside.

'Some freakish current of warm air, coming in contact with the low temperature, had set up condensation which was projected earthwards in the form of water blobs. When these landed in the snow they left tracks like those of some fabulous animal.'[54] Given that Rennie saw these tracks being made and felt water falling from the air it is reasonable to assume that both the Canadian tracks and the tracks seen near the Cairngorms were the result of a rare meteorological condition. This 'explanation' may be applicable to the origin of other 'mystery' tracks such as the 'Devil's Hoofprints'. On the other hand a rare and invisible water throwing creature may be at large.

It has also been suggested that because witnesses to the BGM have heard 'footsteps' as part of the experience these footsteps must have caused by something with a foot! In other words another contention for the physical existence of a Big Grey Man. Affleck Gray in his book on the BGM devotes a whole chapter to this matter[55]. BGM witnesses and others on Ben Macdhui have experienced phenomena which has been interpreted as being footsteps. These have been heard in winter conditions with snow underfoot and also in high summer, when the terrain is of bare rock with little or no vegetation.

A review of both the mountaineering and paranormal literature suggests that the sound of 'footsteps' being heard with no evidence for their origin, are a relatively common phenomena. Dependent on the context they are often attributed to the unknown, usually in the form of 'ghosts', or to natural phenomena such as unusual echoes. However in all these cases, as well as those concerning the BGM they have also been heard when the witnesses have been stationary and when no-one else seems to have been in the area. Gray can find no fitting and comprehensive explanation for the footsteps. In the context of the BGM though nothing has ever been seen to make the sound of footsteps, no footprints have ever been discovered which could be connected with the sounds. Walter Reid, in the Aberdeen Press & Journal the week after Collie's account was made public, is reported as having '....often experienced the "crunch-crunch" noise in the snow which Professor Collie described. He had got it when he was on the mountain-top alone and when there was perfect silence, but he attributed it to a weird echo effect.'[56].

It is possible that some form of meteorological phenomenon similar to that which J.A. Rennie witnessed in Canada could be responsible. Echoes or other people in the same general area may also account for *some* of the footsteps heard, but it is impossible to isolate any consistent phenomena, natural or paranormal which causes them. As evidence for the physical existence of the BGM though the 'footsteps' do not stand up to scrutiny, even though they remain largely unexplained.

During the writing of this piece I asked Loren Coleman, one of the world's leading cryptozoologists for his opinion on the BGM. Coleman believes that whilst much of the evidence attributed to the BGM is natural or psychological in origin a percentage is paranormal and physical in origin: '*I* think that a cryptozoological specimen may be related to SOME of the reports...especially of the ones where tall hairy creatures are seen and large footprints are left in the snow.' Coleman goes on to say ' I tend to think that ancient European tales of Big Grey Men and Grendels are evidence of a memory of humans who coexisted with "True Giants" - real hominoids that may be Gigantopithecus. Some relict populations of these species may have survived in wilderness areas of Europe into the middle of this century.'[57] This may be the case elsewhere in Europe but almost certainly not with the BGM. There *are* no footprints and the evidence for visual sightings is, as we have seen, slim to say the least.

In dealing with accounts of the Big Grey Man of Ben Macdhui all we really have are the accounts given by the people who have had the experience. *No* physical evidence exists. The experiences appear to be random in location and time. They do not happen to everyone who visits Ben Macdhui, even those people who go to the exact spots where previous witnesses have had the experience. Nor do they appear to happen to the same people twice. The experiences appear to be non-physical in origin, spontaneous and transitory in nature. They seem to be as likely to happen to people who know nothing about the BGM legend as they do to hardened and knowledgeable mountaineers who scoff at the supernatural.

It would be easy to suggest, in the cold light of day, that the BGM legend appears to be little more than a few unusual experiences moulded by the media into a localised folktale. But a number of people have had unusual experiences on and in the vicinity of Ben Macdhui. They have been experiences which have caused rational and hard headed mountaineers to risk their lives in fleeing highly across dangerous ground. *Something*, physical or non-physical, must have caused those experiences. And that's where the whole subject begins to get very slippery indeed!

Going back to the BGM accounts, a close, analytical, reading reveals one underlying, constant motif. *All* the witnesses in the 'good' accounts report some form of extreme, uncontrollable panic reaction, leading them to flee in blind terror, often for miles. Fair enough, you might say, anyone would panic if they saw the BGM. But some of the 'panics' take place *prior* to any 'sighting', and in the majority of cases the whole experience is *solely* a panic, the trimmings of BGM legend being tacked on later by writer or witness because of the geographical context of the experience.

So is there a genuine mystery after all? Well, if this core phenomenon were isolated to the Cairngorms and the BGM legend we could probably discount it as an artefact of the storytelling process. But accounts of being gripped by an uncontrollable panic, one which results in fleeing to the point of exhaustion or narrowly avoiding death by falling over cliffs intrigued me. In digging deep in both the paranormal and mountaineering literature I discovered that this core experience is relatively widespread in wild or mountainous areas, but has been either ignored or subsumed into the broader, and more 'exciting', area of 'ghost' stories. This is a mistake because, whether paranormal or psychological in origin, there appears to be a very real phenomenon at work.

With the specific evidence for a BGM being so sparse, but the core phenomenon being so consistent and evidenced elsewhere, it would be a mistake to continue to see the BGM phenomenon in either isolation or terms of being caused by an encounter with a physical entity. The evidence I have gathered suggests that the BGM experience and others can be re-framed as *mountain panics* onto which local folklore is grafted. Bear with me while I take an excursion to the mountains of madness and speculate on what lives there.

May 1954. Intending to make use of the excellent weather on his day off, water company surveyor Clive Elliot decided to walk the hills from Kilmuir to Staffin, on the Isle of Skye. Everything was fine until he reached a stream in Glen Sneosdale. He jumped across and '.....immediately, as if I'd stepped into another world, my mind just went to pieces. I cannot describe the feeling, one of *total, absolute, blind terror.* I didn't look round to see what was happening, I just went up the hill and I remember pulling myself against the grass and boosting myself as hard as I could. I've never felt anything like that in my life before and please god I never do again'.[58]The feeling stopped after a few hundred yards and Elliot's day continued with no further problems.

Clive Elliot's account is self-explanatory, a one-off experience totally out of character which has puzzled him intensely over the years. The italics are mine, stressing the terror and wonder Elliot put into the words when I interviewed him twenty two years later. Had Elliot's experience taken place within the Ben Macdhui area his account would surely have been part of the overall legend. The fact that he did not reveal his experience to anyone until 1996 and did not attempt to connect with any legendary creature suggests that we have got the data as 'raw' as possible.

Perhaps there is something about northern Skye because the following two accounts both originate from within a few miles of Clive Elliot's experience.

On a visit to Skye in June 1971 veteran hill walker Brian Miller headed south from the Staffin-Uig road. After passing the top of Bioda Buidhe he began to feel distinctly uneasy, intimidated and depressed. As though something - some thing perhaps - were watching him. He continued, becoming increasingly convinced that 'something malignant was watching and waiting for a chance to spring'. After another half mile he descended into a small hollow and, '.....really felt fear, for all the world as if something was hiding behind the last rise and would spring if I took my eyes off the route I had taken.' Miller turned and retreated to his car in panic.[59]

Miller returned to Skye the following year and on one outing walked over the tops toward Baca Ruadh. 'Before I'd gone more than three

hundred yards I was assailed again by a feeling of unease.' Miller told me. He pressed on but once again, '...the old feeling of being watched by something malignant became overpowering'. The feeling of panic intensified and he again abandoned the walk. [60]

Intrigued by these out of character panic attacks Miller did some research and discovered Swire's book on the legends of Skye. In its pages he found the area round the Quaraing (about two miles from his first experience) described as having 'an atmosphere which can never be captured. Perhaps it can best be summed up by saying that it is as if 'the terror that walketh in darkness' here walks by day.' Swire also recounts being told by two men that the '...Baca Ruadh....which they visited at different times, gives just this same feeling of terror and potent, living evil. All other Skye hills are friendly, but not the Baca Ruach.'.[61]

Both Elliot's and Miller's experiences took place in northern Skye, within a few miles of each other. Both experiences were reported to me independently and the witnesses do not know each other.

Another correspondent, Mr J. Craig, told me of an incident which took place on Bennachie near Aberdeen. He and his two friends were resting below the summit when, '....we all stopped talking and a most horrid feeling of unease and then absolute terror swept over us. As one person the three of us fled down through heather, boulders, with no thought except 'get away, get away'.' They didn't stop running until they reached the foot of the mountain.[62] There was no forewarning of this 'terror' happening and, oddly, Craig nor his companions mentioned the experience to each other for years afterwards. Bennachie has a legend connected to a giant who protects the mountain, known as Jock o' Bennachie. Craig is convinced he and his friends experienced the power of Jock o'Bennachie.

Long distance walker Chris Townsend, in his book *Walking the Munroes and Tops*, recalls an experience by the Allt Innis a'Mhuill in Glen Strathfarrar when he '....suddenly had a strong feeling of a presence nearby, of something or someone waiting and watching...'. Townsend sensed a 'hint of hostility' in this presence and, 'for a second or two I felt frightened.'[63]

Was Townsend's experience just the results of isolation and a hard day on the hill? Or was it something primeval and brooding, indigenous to the landscape?

I contacted Townsend, who commented:

'I never thought my brief experience would be noticed. I haven't really anything to add to the description but your email did set me thinking. I don't think isolation or a hard day were anything to do with it. I've walked thousands of miles alone in much remoter places than the Highlands and I often have long days. Much of that walking has been in Western North America where I would have put such a feeling down to there being a bear nearby - and felt much more frightened! Whether it was supernatural terror or not I don't know. Overall I tend towards the sceptical but I can't think of what could have made me feel like that.'[64]

Sensations of 'presence' and extreme panic are clearly not restricted to the confines of Ben Macdhui or even the broader area of the Cairngorms. They can occur in any mountainous or wild area. They do not fall into any easy category, which makes their reporting difficult. After all, who wants to announce that they have been terrified to the point of flight by something they cannot see, hear or feel? Therefore these experiences are often ignored or go unreported until they are noticed as passing remarks in the literature or when they are specifically hunted out by researchers.

When these experiences *are* reported they often become subsumed into local folklore, attached to ghost stories, hauntings and so on. The form that the experience is given by witness or commentator, i.e. giant, ghost, faerie, elemental or whatever supersedes the core phenomenon and becomes the motif for the experience. This makes for an interesting story but, I think, lays a false trail.

44. Joan Grant, *Far Memory*, Corgi, 1975, p. 170.
45. Grant, *op. cit.* p. 170-171
46. Mark Chorvinsky et al, 'The Search for the Thunderbird Photo', *Strange Magazine* no. 19, Spring 1998, p. 26-28.
47. Gray, *op. cit.* p. 13-14.
48. Marc Alexander, *Phantom Britain*, Muller, London, 1975, p. 204, for example. Most other BGM references consider this as a possibility.
49. Ronald J. Willis, 'Ben Macdhui - the Haunted Mountain', *Info Journal* no. 15, May, 1975, p. 5. For example.
50. Rennie, *op. cit.*
51. Rennie, *op. cit.*
52. Mike Dash. *The Devil's Hoofmarks* in Fortean Studies, JBP, London 1994, p.

71- 150.
53. Rennie, *op. cit.*
54. Rennie, *op. cit.*
55. Gray, *op. cit.*, p.61-68.
56. 'Mountain Climbers and the 'ghost' of Ben Mac dhui', *Aberdeen Press & Journal*, 12 December 1925.
57. Email, 6 July, 1998.
58. Interview with Clive Elliot, 3 September 1996.
59. Letter from Brian Miller, 4 February, 1998.
60. Miller, 1998.
61. Otta F. Swire, *Skye: The Island and its Legends*, Blackie, London, 1961, p. 45-46.
62. Letter from J. Craig, September, 1997.
63. Chris Townsend. *Walking the Munros and Tops*, Mainstream, Edinburgh, 1997, p. 153.
64. Email, 6 August, 1998.

TOO MUCH MONKEY BUSINESS

BY JONATHAN DOWNES (CFZ)

"Don't worry Ladies and Gentlemen – these chains are made of chrome steel"
The Showman in *King Kong* (1933)

Once again, YUFOS are indebted to our great friend Jon Downes for the following article, which will be appearing in one of Jon's future books. Enjoy...

As Bernard Heuvelmans, the 'father of cryptozoology' himself wrote over forty years ago: *"terror is all the more powerful when it wears a human face"*. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that some of the most enduring icons of the science that Heuvelmans was amongst the first to promulgate are hypothetical hominoids, and mysterious missing-links between mankind and his closest relatives!

Yeti-like creatures have been seen in North-America for centuries. The Native Americans were familiar with the creature, that some of them called 'Sasquatch'. It has been suggested that these animals are close relatives of the yeti, which crossed to North America from mainland Asia via the long submerged land bridge across the Bering Straits. But there also seems to be a second unknown primate in North America. In the southern states of the U. S. A there are recurrent reports of foul-smelling, chimpanzee-like creatures, known popularly as 'skunk-apes'. U. S cryptozoologist Loren Coleman has suggested that these are evolved descendants of an extinct ape called *Dryopithecus*.

There are many reputable zoologists prepared, at least to consider his hypothesis. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest that *Dryopithecus* - or Oak Ape - so called because the fossils were all found in areas that had been covered in deciduous forests ever existed in North America!

The *Drypopithecinae* existed in Africa, China and Europe during the Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene times. They were a highly successful family living in both temperate and sub-tropical woodlands. Theodosius Dobzhansky remarked that it was not surprising that fossil apes of this family were found in Europe, because *"that continent, together with North America enjoyed warm temperate to tropical climates during the Tertiary period"*.

However, there is a burgeoning amount of evidence to suggest that skunk apes are not animals at all but Zooform in nature.
In early 1998, soon after our trek through Puerto Rico and Mexico in search of the chupacabra Graham Inglis and I arrived , together with the Channel Four film crew, in Florida. We were still supposedly searching for the chupacabra but my researches in Puerto Rico and Mexico had convinced me that the phenomena that I had encountered in these countries were completely separate from each other.

Although they each had a similar socio-cultural genesis, it was obvious to me that we were dealing with two completely disparate phenomena, and I was convinced that what we

were to encounter on the mainland of the United States would be different as well.

It was.

Florida is a particularly peculiar part of the United States because in many ways it does not seem to relate to the rest of the country at all. Large proportions of the population are of Hispanic origin and speak Spanish rather than English as their mother tongue. It is a land of hurricanes and swamps, crack-cocaine and alligators, cable television, fast food and mosquitoes. Not surprisingly it is also a land full of monsters.

The immortal Ivan T. Sanderson, who according to your particular belief system was either a genius or a madman (or perhaps both) lived in the area for many years and is responsible for reports of a giant pink newt-like creature, and a the footprints of a giant penguin (which turned out in 1988 to be a hoax promulgated by a local resident with a juvenile sense of humour). Florida is also the home of the exceedingly rare Florida Panther (actually a sub-species of puma which has adapted to life in The Everglades), and to the aforementioned skunk ape.

I don't like early mornings and have spent large portions of my life trying to avoid them. However on our first morning in what is euphemistically known as the "Sunshine State" I had one of the most annoying early mornings that I have suffered in my cryptoinvestigative career. Although I have inherited many fine qualities from my mother – my love of books, for example, my interest in wildlife and my ability to cook, I have also inherited a far less desirable genetic predisposition. / I always catch horrid colds several times a year – even in the tropics. I have found over the years that the only things which help my colds are a proprietary medicine called Lemsip, and copious amounts of Brandy. On this occasion I had liberally partaken of both, and had also taken a couple of valium to provide what my old Charge Nurse used to describe as a "chemical cosh" to make sure that I managed my requisite eight hours sleep!

At four in the morning the pre-booked alarm call woke me up, and with a head bleary from the affects of valium, brandy and my cold, I wandered semi awake into the hotel lobby to meet the rest of our intrepid team.

Early that morning Graham and I were appearing as special guests on a Radio Programme being broadcast from Fort Lauderdale. The programme rejoiced in the name *"Footy and The Chicks at Six"* and was presented by a New York Irishman called *"Footy"* (who made a series of not particularly funny jokes about Englishmen until I gave him a clenched fist salute and whispered *"Tiocfaidh ar Lar"* at him - a technique that has got me out of trouble in Hibernian hostelries on a number of occasions). The *"Chicks at Six"* turned out to be two charming (reasonably) youngish ladies of (obviously) Spanish descent.

Much to the chagrin of the Norman who saw his prime directive being compromised, our 'on-air' conversation became sidetracked onto the subject of the skunk ape.

A caller, who identified herself only as 'Denise' described to us her encounter with a chimpanzee type creature that made a strange hooting noise somewhat akin to the electronic feedback from a badly tuned electric guitar. 'Denise' tried to emulate the sound for us, and having done so was slightly libellously compared by 'Footy' to the music made by Rock Group, Aerosmith, who were the special guests on his show immediately after us.

The "Skunk Ape" is a well known phenomenon across Florida and many thousands of words have been written about it. This article, taken almost at random from my archives was printed in the Miami Herald in September 1997:

"OCHOPEE -- Someone -- or something -- was lurking in the dark, mysterious swamp just a few steps away from the old gravel road in the heart of cypress stands about 40 miles west of Miami. A small group of British tourists and their tour guide swear to that.

In recent weeks, several people have phoned in reports of creatures that fit that description to officials at Big Cypress National Preserve. The reports were believed to be the first since a flurry of skunk ape sightings in Southeast Florida 20 years ago.
Vince Doerr, chief of the Ochopee Fire Control District, saw a strange creature cross Burns Road near his home last Monday morning. "I was riding along when, 800 feet ahead of me, a brown-looking tall thing ran across the road. " Doerr said. "It wasn't a bear -- that's for sure. It ran into the woods. "

Dow Rowland, 54, a guide for Everglades Day Safari, said he was hauling six British tourists up Turner River Road last week when they spotted the apeman loping along the cypress trees on the west side of the road, about two miles north of Tamiami Trail.

"It was about six feet tall with brown, long fur, " Rowland said. "It loped along like a big monkey or a gorilla, then it disappeared into the woods. " Big guy gets around! Rowland said his group was not the first to see the apeman this summer.

Back at the radio station other callers also described their experiences and it soon became apparent that the 'skunk ape' was as real to the inhabitants of Southern Florida as are the big cats which still roam the moorlands of south-western England to the farmers of Bodmin Moor. Unlike the so-called Beast of Bodmin, however, it was also apparent that most of the people who had encountered the 'creature' were of the opinion that it was supernatural in nature rather than a flesh and blood animal. Several callers linked it with the local practise of Santeria - a voodoo-like religion practised all over the Caribbean by descendants of slaves, and other people that we met within the staff of the radio station itself linked it strongly with the UFO reports which had been prevalent in the area over the previous few years.

Across the Hispanic world the chupacabra has become a media phenomenon which is no longer explicable within purely cryptozoological or even fortean zoological terms. In America, however, either because the chupacabra appeals to something intrinsically tacky within the national psyche, or more probably (and less overtly xenophobically on my part) because citizens of the United States per se have a larger disposable per capita income than do the inhabitants of the other places where El Chupacabra is reported to roam the commercial exploitation of the phenomenon has been far greater.

Since the widespread publicity that the chupacabra incidents in Central America have gained across the national press in the United States its cultural influence has spread. This record review appeared in the Sat 21 March 1998 edition of the Dayton, Ohio, Dayton Daily News:

"Imani Coppola: Chupacabra

(Pop)
***Review:* * ***

Blending rap, pop and psychedelia, Legend of a Cowgirl rides into our radio-wave consciousness like an undulating mirage. With samples of Donovan's Sunshine Superman, the hit single beckons like a siren's call.

Most of the 10 tracks on Chupacabra follow suit, with promises of discovery, things sexual and other delights. Imani keeps her lyrics simple as she deftly fashions hook after hook, letting repetition weave its hypnotic spell.

Perhaps as an in-joke, the CD's title, Chupacabra, refers to a Big Foot-type monster first sighted in Puerto Rico two years ago called "The Goatsucker. "

I would love to say that this record was playlisted on the Y-100 morning show. It would certainly have fitted in with the general tackiness of the operation but unfortunately for the sake of a true account of our adventures it wasn't. Here I should also say that although they were obviously far more interested in having Aerosmith on as guests rather than us everyone at the radio station was kind and polite to us. However, as soon as the interview was finally over we took our leave and made our way back to the hotel where we all went back to sleep.

The stresses and strains of such an early start on top of the gruelling flight from Mexico took its toll upon the crew as a whole, and so the rest of the day was spent pretty much idling around. I still felt horrible, and so whilst everyone else explored Miami and did their shopping for presents for their loved ones back home, I retired to bed with a tub of chicken salad (from the Gay Deli three blocks away), and copious amounts of Brandy and Coke, and did my best to get rid of my cold in the best way I knew.

It must have worked because I woke up bright and early, ate a hearty (though mildly inedible) breakfast and prepared to meet another exciting day. This was the day that we discovered quite how strange the skunk ape phenomenon actually was. Still on the track of El Chupacabra we were filming in Sweetwater, a particularly innocuous suburb of Miami where, allegedly at least, the first Chupacabra killings on the mainland of the United States had taken place. The original witness was not available to see us, and as our schedule was tight we had to be content with interviewing

the UFO investigator who had first collated the evidence of the killings.

He was a genial chap called Vergilio Sanchez, and he told us:

"The first major American sighting of the Goatsucker, as such, took place this past March in Miami, Florida. In the predominantly Hispanic south Miami neighbourhood of Sweetwater, 69 various animals were slain overnight. The massacre included goats, geese, ducks and chickens, all of which had wounds that looked like bite marks. The livestock were not drained of their blood, though, and police and investigating zoologists felt that the attacker was a large dog. The animals' wounds were consistent with canine bites, dog hair and dog footprints were found, and an entryway had been dug under a fence just as a dog would do.

Still, there was at least one eyewitness to El Chupacabras in Sweetwater. An elderly woman in the area described seeing a large, doglike creature. "It stood up on two legs and was hunched over like this with big arms and looked at me with these red eyes, " she said before a phalanx of TV news cameras".

It soon became evident that the animal that had been seen by the original witness (a worker at a suburban rest home for psycho-geriatrics) had very little to do with the main body of chupacabra attacks which are discussed elsewhere in this book. The animal she had seen was something like a cross between an ape and a shaggy black dog, and moved semi-bipedally leaving a trail of exsanguinated chickens and turkeys behind it.

We were shown plaster casts which were taken at the time and which purport to be taken from tracks found in the area where the beast was seen. The cast resembles that of a very large dog print, but with one incredible difference! It appears to have the finger nails of a human or an ape rather than the claw marks of a canid. I persuaded our freind Vergilio from the Miami UFO Centre to let me have a copy as a memento mori, and more by luck than by judgement it arrived safely back in England wrapped in a stolen hotel hand-towel, and as I write is now proudly resting upon the piano in my sitting room.

Apart from the Florida Panther (a subspecies of the puma which we shall discuss in more detail later) the only large carnivores KNOWN to exist in Florida are the following. (These descriptions are taken from the archives of the United States Fish and Game Department):

Bobcat (Felis Rufus)

The bobcat lives mostly in swamps and fields. It is 3 ft long and weighs any where from 9 to 33. 5 lbs. (about the size of a cocker spaniel). It is one of the best cat climbers and is sometimes found in the top of the cypress trees which are found in Florida. It is generally terrestrial and nocturnal. It eats small mammals and birds. Bobcats are not social. They are highly territorial, especially with the females. They mark their territories with urine, faeces, and anal gland secretions. The female give birth in the spring and their young leave in the winter. Bobcat populations have greatly decreased do to hunting and trapping. For that reason they are now on the Endangered species list.

Whereas Pumas have been known to occasionally walk bipedally there are no accounts of Bobcats ever having done so. Whereas the animal described by the witnesses at Sweetwater did indeed have a short tail like a Bobcat it was most definitely at least semi-bipedal which would discount a Bobcat identity for the mysterious beast.

The Florida Black Bear, Ursus americanus floridanus, is found in localised large heavily-wooded areas statewide. It is large (50-80") and bulky (180-300 pounds). Its black coat is thick and long. It has a tan muzzle and a short tail. It has short, curved claws. The Florida black bear dens, usually alone, in cavities in trees, banks, logs, and in caves. It also nests on the ground, particularly in palmetto thickets and tangles of gallberry, fetterbush, and sweet pepperbush. It is active primarily at night. An omnivore, it feeds on fruits, nuts, roots, twigs, bark, small animals, eggs, honey, and carrion. Favourite food plants include oaks, cabbage palm, saw palmetto, blueberry, black gum, and gallberry.

On the surface, the American Black Bear is the most likely of the indigenous predators of the area to fill the (figurative) identikit picture we have built up of the animal seen at Sweetwater. However, although the descriptions match to a certain extent, and the footprint cast (which has often been described from photographs as being that of a Florida Panther but which in three glorious dimensions is most obviously nothing of the sort) is slightly reminiscent of that of a bear, the modus operandi of the killings themselves

leaves this identity very much in doubt. The witnesses describe an animal that was not alarmed and was in no hurry. They also describe the trail of exsanguinated and lifeless corpses that the creature left behind it, and it is certain (to my mind at least, having talked to several zoo keepers who are familiar with bears and their habits both in the wild and in captivity that unless a bear had been very frightened and in (to use one zookeeper's picturesque phrase) "one hell of a hurry", it would have eaten the chickens, bones and all without a second thought. To have left a trail of corpses behind it is unthinkable for an Ursid.

The Coyote, Canis latrans, naturally expanded its range into Florida in the 1970's. It is now found throughout the state, primarily in fields, pastures, and other open areas. It is light to reddish gray with rust coloured ears and legs, a black-tipped tail, and a lighter coloured underside. It is 41-52" long overall. It digs large dens, tunnelling 10-20 feet and creating a nest chamber at the end. There are at least two entrances, each about 10" wide and 20" high. Rabbits and rodents make up most of its diet but it is an opportunistic feeder. It also eats reptiles, amphibians, birds, fruit (persimmons, grapes, blackberries, and pawpaws), seeds, and carrion.

Breeding occurs in late winter or early spring with a litter of 2-12 pups born about 60 days later. Both parents tend the young (and may remain together for life). The pups stay with the parents for about six months. Predators are man and dogs.

The only reason that I have mentioned this species (or the two species of fox which are described below for the sake of completion) is that when we were in Mexico we found Coyotes discussed as possible contenders for the cause of the depredations upon domestic livestock which have been blamed on the chupacabra. As I have already stated, when discussing these allegations in Mexico, they are certainly no such thing. However, the advent of a new and potentially dangerous creature into the ecosystem of an area invariably sparks rumours of depredations on domestic livestock. The most famous case where this has happened has been on the moorlands of my native Devon and Cornwall where people noting the appearance of large dark felids and also the killings of large numbers of domestic livestock have drawn the conclusion that the two phenomena are inextricably linked.

The other two wild canids found in Florida are non-candidates for the same reasons:

The Gray Fox, Urocyon cinereoargenteus, are found in densely wooded areas through the state except for the Keys. It is silver gray with reddish sides and a white underside. It has a pointed muzzle and a long (10-16"), bushy tail with a black stripe and tip. It is 31-44" long.

The Red Fox, Vulpes vulpes, is found in neglected citrus groves and pine and oak woods statewide except for the Keys. It is sandy red with a white underside. The end of the long (11-16") tail is black with a white tip. Its cheeks and throat are white and its legs and feet are black. Its muzzle and ears are pointed. It is 33-43" long.

There are no large mustelids reported from the area, and although there are re-occurrent reports that large exotic species of animal have been imported into the area and then feloniously released in contravention of federal (and local) ordinance I can think of none that even approach the appearance or the modus operandi of the creatures reported from Sweetwater. I felt then, as I feel now that we have to look elsewhere for our answers!

At the time, the connection between UFO reports and a bizarre canine/hominoid hybrid rang a mental bell in the innermost recesses of my mind, reminding me of something I had seen and heard about in Suffolk the previous year, but there was nothing that I could do about it at the time, and as there was more pressing work to do, I mentally filed it in my cerebral in tray, and got on with the job at hand.

When we got back to England, however, the pieces of the puzzle began to fall into place.

There is, a long and complicated link between sightings of hairy ape-like creatures and UFO reports in all parts of the world, especially in North and South America, and this is, perhaps, where we should briefly look at some of the reports which are languishing in our files.

In a book published in 1980, Janet and Colin Bord coined the phrase BHM (Big Hairy Men), to describe anomalous man beasts and beast-men sighted worldwide. There is a burgeoning amount of evidence linking these zooform BHM phenomena with UFO sightings.

One of the most significant events of this type took place in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on October 25th 1973. It was researched by psychiatrist Berthold Eric Schwarz who recounted his findings in *The Flying Saucer Review Vol. 20 #1* (1974). The incident began at about nine p. m when 'Stephen Pulaski' (a pseudonym chosen by Schwarz) together with about fifteen other witnesses observed a red light hovering above a field just outside the town. For reasons that (as far as I know) have never been disclosed he collected two ten year old twin boys and went to investigate. As they approached the headlights of their car dimmed mysteriously and the UFO slowly started to descend. It was dome shaped *"like a big bubble (. . . .) making a sound like a lawn mower"* and the three witnesses, who by this time had got out of their car and were gazing at the apparition in awe, strange screaming sounds could be heard.

Suddenly two strange creatures were revealed in the pulsating light given off by the strange object. Pulaski and his two companions thought that they were bears. The North American Black Bear *(Eurarctos americanus)* is certainly found in the area but are considerably smaller than the animals described by Pulaski and his friends. According to veteran fortean researchers Loren Coleman and Jerry Clark:

"Both had long dark gray hair, and arms that almost reached the ground. The taller one, about eight feet in height, was running its left hand along the fence. The shorter, which stood slightly over seven feet tall, seemed to be hurrying along to keep up with its companion. Both were making a whining sound, like a baby crying, and apparently were communicating with each other via this strange noise. "

The witnesses later asserted that these 'creatures' were definitely ape-like rather than bear-like. One of the young boys fled the scene in terror and Pulaski, showing a charmingly investigative attitude, shot at the larger of the creatures with his rifle. The animal made a whining noise and reached out towards its companion. the UFO vanished leaving a phosphorescent glowing area bright enough *"to read a newspaper by"* and the two animals retreated, apparently unharmed into the woods.

Interestingly enough, although these animals do not resemble the aforementioned North American Black Bears, according to Richard Freeman, a cryptozoologist at Leeds University, *"they do not resemble standard Sasquatch reports either. Reconstructions of the animals from witness accounts endow them with long, wolf-like ears, fangs and claws. This makes them look rather more like the popular notion of a werewolf".*

We will find this bizarre mixture of primate and canid again and again during our search for the truth behind the worldwide zooform BHM phenomena.

There seems to be no doubt that these animals were closely related in some way to the UFO. There is a long history of both UFO sightings and 'Bigfoot' reports in Pennsylvania. Indeed the Pennsylvania Centre for UFO Research publishes a newsletter The Creature Research Journal which chronicles 'Bigfoot' reports in the locality. In number 16 (Fall 1994) the Editors published a chart showing the breakdown of 'Bigfoot' reports over the previous ten years. They comment that:

"The results clearly show that like UFO sightings, creature encounters fluctuate periodically" in a pattern totally unlike any records of living, breathing animals. In a recent paper, and again during a lecture in London during 1995, Loren Coleman commented that in the years following the original reports of giant hominoids in the Pacific North-West of the United States, BHM reports started to come in from all over the country including areas where no reputable zoologist would seriously suggest that any hitherto unknown species of higher primate could exist. I am prepared to admit the possibility that an unknown species of great ape may exist in the forests of Oregon and Washington State, the possibility that similar animals are living within a figurative stones throw of New York City is unlikely, to say the least.

Smaller ape-like creatures similar to the skunk-ape or Loren Coleman's hypothesised surviving *Dryopithecus* have also been reported in conjunction with UFO sightings several thousand miles south in Caracas, Venezuela. According to Gordon Creighton:

"A bristling, hairy, dwarf-like creature" was seen in the outskirts of the Venezualan capital at 2 a. m on the 28th November 28 1954, It attacked two men who were cautiously investigating a large, glowing object which was blocking the road in front of their van.

They noted that whilst it seemed to be very strong it was surprisingly light in weight.

Twelve days later a luminous machine like *a "huge washbowl placed upside down on top of another"* was seen hovering about two feet above the ground over the Trans Andean Highway between Chico and Terro de las Tres Torres in Venezuela. Four small creatures *"immensely strong"* and with *"hair all over their bodies"* were seen apparently disembarking from the craft. They looked very much like chimpanzees, or indeed Loren Coleman's theorised *Dryopithecus* descendants. Needless to say, with the possible exception of the much disputed *Ameranthropoides loysii* (which is almost certainly a hoax anyway) there are no anthropoid apes known from anywhere in the New World. Like the Pennsylvania creatures nineteen years later, the appearance of these 'animals' seems inextricably linked with that of the unidentified flying objects.

Such 'creatures' are not confined to the New World.

Australian researcher Rex Gilroy has drawn parallels between the appearances of UFOs and the Australian man-beast popularly known as the Yowie. Zhou Xinyan noted a connection between UFO sightings in China and reports of their wildman - known as the Yeren. What is far less well known, however is the connection between UFO's and the BHM phenomena which, even now, are reported from the United Kingdom.

UFOs:
SUB ROSA*
DOWN UNDER
THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY & GOVERNMENT ROLE IN THE UFO CONTROVERSY (part 6)

BY BILL CHALKER

(Copyright © B. Chalker - 1996)

The author is a leading Australian UFO researcher and a contributing editor to the International UFO Reporter. An industrial chemist with an honours science degree from the University of New England he has worked in quality assurance and laboratory management. His book, The OZ Files - the Australian UFO Story, was published in 1996. He coordinates the NSW based UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC).

Bill has allowed his work to be published in Project Red Book on numerous occasions, and it is now my pleasure to begin a major series on Bill's research into the secret investigations of the Australian government and military of UFOs.

Sub Rosa: refers to "under the rose", meaning "in secret".

THE UFO COVER-UP MILIEU OF 1959

The following bizarre story immerses us in the shadowy world of alleged clandestine UFO tales of UFO cover-up. It does not constitute proof of anything, but is an intriguing example of the "rumours" that pervade ufology. Late in 1959, Fred Stone ran a story in his publication, the Australian Saucer Record, that brought an immediate response from official quarters.

Generally the stories that populated the pages of the civilian UFO publications were largely ignored. This one, however, appeared to have stepped on officialdom's sensitivities. The story's headline was less than subtle:

AIR FORCE MEN? Seize Cameras and Films!!!

Fred Stone's story purported to be based on testimony given to him by one of the men involved. Allegedly during Easter, 1954, near the border of South Australia and West Australia, 3 men in a car were followed by a flying saucer for up to 50 miles. They reported that the saucer was low enough for them to see portholes. At its closest point, about 100 yards, and at some 50 feet altitude, the young men were able to take 92 photos with 5 cameras. Some of the closeups would show "the undersides with a three ball landing type gear."

The men reported the incident to the police at the next town. The police reportedly rang Air Control at Salisbury. The men were detained

and a helicopter allegedly turned up from Edinburgh field. Two Air Force officers disembarked from the helicopter. They interrogated the young men and confiscated the cameras and film. The men were warned not to discuss the matter with anyone. Stone writes that two weeks later their cameras were returned to them via registered post, with letters warning them not to tell anyone of their experience. According to Stone's account, one of the men was able to secure one of the photos, but it was "the worst of the series taken."

There were many problems with the article as published which makes one question its legitimacy. However the RAAF contacted Stone and as a result he declined to mention the incident any further. Two estranged Stone coworkers, Colin McCarthy and Peter Thomas, attempted to find out more from Stone without success.

McCarthy and Thomas enlisted a contact with RAAF connections who, on their behalf, interviewed Stone and the alleged helicopter pilot. Stone would not supply any further information, but the pilot, Flt. Lt. Jack Epsy, may have supplied indirect confirmation of the event. He refused to supply any direct confirmation of the event, but showed the contact the flight log of the helicopter. Without comment he revealed that the log pages for the day in question had been removed! The contact took this as being Epsy's way of confirming the event, without compromising his security oaths. He indicated that he was operating out of Lake Hart near Woomera and that the helicopter was operational at the time. This completely contradicts the statements of the RAAF officer who interviewed Thomas.

Peter Thomas was interviewed by RAAF officers on December 15th, 1959, about his knowledge of the incident. The interview with Flight Lieutenant L. Longland went as follows:

Thomas (T): Only what I have read in the magazine I have no personal knowledge of it. I'm interested in it, of course, because it looked to me like a first-class hoax. If it's a hoax, of course, it should be suppressed... but I gather that Fred (Stone) has been allowed to publish it, so I suppose it must be genuine.

L: Not necessarily.

T: Well, if it weren't genuine, surely an official denial would have been issued.

L: No, it's not policy to deny these things. It doesn't say RAAF or RAF...

T: But still, there's only one Air Force in Australia.

L: Well, I don't know: there's RAF, and there are experimental things: it could be American - it could be civilian force ....it doesn't identify itself.

T: I was flabbergasted when I saw it published like that, because I couldn't understand how he could get away with publishing a thing like that unless it were true, and if it were true, he's got no proof.

L: It couldn't possibly be true: there are so many inaccuracies in it.

T: You mean the story as it is printed couldn't be true, but it could be founded on fact?

L: No....they say here...."inform the police at the next town"....Immediately rang air control at Salisbury" ....presumably Edinburgh - there's no such thing as Air Control at Salisbury .... distance approximately 200 miles. 17 miles from the W.A. border is 627 miles from Edinburgh ... helicopter couldn't do it in under a day's travel no Air Force personnel in their right mind would send a helicopter that far on a mission such as that....the only helicopter in the RAAF at that time was on the ground and in pieces. That wouldn't be known generally - that's known to us.
Upon further discussion Flt.Lt. Longland indicated:

"...You should be very well aware that ("flying saucer sightings") are not disregarded.... The Government of Australia has set up a perfectly efficient organisation for investigating UFOs .... and they have vested the authority in the Department of Civilian Aviation .... "There isn't any such thing as an official Air Force position; as far as U.F.O.s are concerned we are not interested We don't refer to flying saucers - there is no such thing as far as we are concerned. They are UFOs ... the Department of Civil Aviation has the central authority to analyse them."
Contrary to Flt. Lt. Longland's statements the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, RAAF, was the central authority not the DCA, the RAAF did referred to "flying saucers", and there was a statement of RAAF policy, originally formulated in 1954 but was reproduced in policy file statements as late as 1959.

Colin McCarthy claimed he was eventually able to track down one of the witnesses. From what he established, a helicopter was despatched from Woomera, not Edinburgh, to rendevous with the witnesses near Eucla. According to the alleged witness, several uniformed officers, and a plain clothed person, demanded the cameras and the exposed film, saying that the property would be returned in due course.

Colin McCarthy advised me that, "Some weeks later our witness had a visit from ASIO at his home in Elizabeth. The cameras were returned, minus all the film except for one very blurred shot, which I saw, and need I say, it was next door to useless. The witness said the ASIO agent frightened quote 'the living shit out of me' unquote!.... When I first heard his story, I was a little sceptical, however his fear was genuine, and with the one remaining blurred photo, lent some degree of authenticity to the story."

Both McCarthy and Thomas link the Eucla helicopter saga to a bizarre story carried in a Sydney newspaper, the *Daily Telegraph*, of August 2nd, 1955. McCarthy feels that this story refers to the Eucla event, even though the basic story accounts in each are different in many respects. McCarthy kept no record of the original interview he secured with one of the alleged witnesses, but he feels he was Peter Johnson, one of the witnesses cited in the story in the *Daily Telegraph*.

The newspaper account did not talk about photographing a flying saucer, being intercepted by the military, or film being confiscated. Indeed we have a rather queer and absurd story, which has not been substantiated. What we have is a fragmentary story accompanying a rather poor photo that is presented as the "THING FROM OUTER SPACE." The story was as follows:

Three young men returned to Melbourne with the picture of what they said was a flying saucer pilot. One of them took the photograph about 14 miles from Eucla, on the South Australian border.

This is the story that Max Clow, 23, Alex Rose, 29, and Peter Johnson, 25, told -:

They were driving through flat country covered by scrub and tall trees when they heard what they thought was a blowout and stopped to look at the tyres. Then Johnson pointed out a shiny object falling to the ground about three miles away.

After an hour's search they found jagged pieces of shining metal and then saw a moving figure 50 yards away. They went closer and watched the figure for about 25 minutes.

Clow said: "It was like a frog from the back and a semi-human from the front, with a green cloak hanging to just abve its knees. The two curved horns on each side of its head gave it a devilish appearance. Its feet and hands were armour-plated and, to make it worse, it was wriggling and swaying like a fish out of water."

Rose then plucked up his courage, moved nearer, and took photographs.

"Then to our amazement, it began to disintegrate before our eyes," said Clow.

The photo reproduced in the newspaper gives what appears to be an out of focus image of something vaguely "humanoid" is shape. Only the background (trees?) is in focus. The foreground and figure (?) are not. In fact one is given the impression of some sort of doll, perhaps on a dashboard, photographed with the camera focused on the background. The photo is far from impressive and certainly does not add to the credibility of a fantastic story.

Depending on your objectivity, beliefs and gullibility it is possible to interpret the photo and story in numerous ways. In the end the Eucla story and photo only serve to confuse an already confused story. We may never known if anything concrete happened to three young men near the South Australian border, ostensibly back during Easter, 1954.

(*Continued next issue*)

(Copyright © B. Chalker - 1996)

The author can be contacted at:

P.O. Box W42,
West Pennant Hills,
NSW, 2125
Australia

email: mailto:bill_c@BIGPOND.COM

Web-site www.theozfiles.com

"UFO" Show on Banana TV at www.bananatv.com.

ASKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

Over the past few weeks, the FriendsOfYUFOS website have been inundated with more than 3 questions to the USA's Most Maverick Paranaormal and UFO Investigator™, TOM BOLLOXINSKI. After he presenting me with a bottle of Jack Daniels, I agreed that PRB readers would indeed be interested to see what Tom had to say. (DB)

Hi Tom

What do you think are the differences between a British Ufologist & an American one about the way they investigate a case, and then the way they write a book about it?

Mark

Hi Mark and BudsOfYUFOS,

Well, if I had a dime for every time I have been asked this question, I'd probably have $7 and 16 cents.

There are, of course, many differences between UK and US ufologists, not least their nationality (*chortle)* suntans, and general coolness. If ya don't believe me, look at, say, stuffy old be-suited Nick Pope, and then look at me. Kind of like comparing 'Brains' from *Thunderbirds* with George Clooney, ain't it?

But mainly, Mark, it's mindset, outlook, and a little bit of good ol' trans-Atlantic magic.

F'risnstance, lets see what a UK ufologist and a US ufologist would each make of the following report, submitted by Mrs. Edna Scopps, 74 "The Larches", Totness.

"I saw a brilliant white star-like object with a fiery tail, streak across the clear night sky. It was visible for about three seconds. There was no sound. This was, I believe, during an expected meteor shower."

Now, A British ufologist, like YUFOS's own Dave Baker, would doubtless say that what the witnesses saw was merely a meteorite, especially if the date of the sighting tied in with a known meteor shower, such as the Perseids, Lenoids, or the Bi-cuspids.

An American ufologist would take this same information and declare that it was a Class 7-F/Z Beamship piloted by Reticulans of the Seventh Silver Order, who were using the meteor shower as a cover for their evil abduction activities.

And they would, of course, be right.

British ufologists are pretty much all sceptics. They get a call from a witness, decide as soon as they put down the phone that the witness saw a bird, a kite or a Boeing 747, and go off to prove it.

An American ufologist is a different, more precise animal. He wants to know how many portholes the spaceship had, which subspecies of Gray it contained, and if the lil' bastards did any good old fashioned cattle ass-coring.

Well, I do anyway.

But ya know what...and here's a little secret I'm gonna share with just my little 'ol YUFOs buddies...we Americans *know what we are talking about...*

Put it this way: Brits Andy Roberts, Jenny Randles and Dr. David Clarke wrote a book about IFOs, in other words "solved" UFO cases, called *The UFOs That Never Were* and consequently sold about 100 copies, worldwide.

I, an American (God love me for it), wrote my landmark classic *The MidgeMan Predictions*, - the astonishing, true-life paranormal events at Lake Lovely, Maine, USA, and sold 100,000 copies in - ooooh, about a week. *In New York City alone!!!*

Which just goes to show....

Hi Tom,

I really enjoyed your last book "Rendlesham – The Elvis Connection"? Have you any more books coming out?

Jon

Hi Jon

Thanks for your comments about my - admittedly - excellent book *Rendlesham - The Elvis Connection.* Glad you enjoyed it. I

enjoyed writing it, and indeed reading it too. Sometimes, I kinda wish that I was someone else just so that I could read it for the first time and really appreciate it...but not for long. Hell, I'm glad that I'm me.

Speaking of '*Elvis...*' though, myself and Haphazard House, my publishers in the States, are having a bit of a problem with any further publishing of the seminal classic.

Seems Lisa-Marie is trying to goddamn sue us for, as she puts it: "*...making my Father and the King of Rock 'n' Roll look like an asshole.*"

Well that's rich. She ever see any of those jump-suits he used to wear?

But anyway, onto happier things: **Of course** I have a new book coming out soon. My hardcover A-Z book, now called *Gruesome Grays, Naughty Nordics and Rotten Reptilians - An A-Z of Extraterrestrial Aliens from Beyond Space*, should be out soon, though by the time ya read this, it might have changed titles again.

I also have a video / DVD, a collection of the highlights from the many recent TV programmes I have been associated with. Its a FOX production, probably produced by Bob Kiviat, and contains the best bits from *"World's Messiest Anal Probes Finally Revealed", "When Good Grays Turn Bad", "The USA's Funniest Animal Mutilations", and "TURNAROUND – Did JFK Actually Kill Lee Harvey Oswald?"* (based on my book)

You seem to write a book a day - how many books you wrote Tom ?

Spaceman

Hi Spaceman,

Well, ya know....wait a minute, you ain't *really* a spaceman, are ya? I still got a sore chin from my run-in with Aldrin, ya know. He took exception to my book *MoonGate - How NASA and All Them Astronauts Lied to the American People and the World*, and took a swing at the last MUFON symposium. He's got quite a right hook for an old guy!

But anyway, how many books? One a day, hmm?
Well, it has been said by some of my detractors - specifically my arch-enemy, the U.S. skepti-bunker Dr.Neuman P.N.Wiseblood- that I *"...produce books at the same rate that other people produce turds - with much to compare the two"*, but what the hell does he know? Wiseblood's such a skeptic that he doesn't even believe that **he** exists!

It is true, though, that I am an incredibly prolific writer, some say the Steven King of the "real" paranormal, and I usually have six or seven books "on the go" at any given time. At the moment I am working on a number of projects, *RODS!!!- Supersonic Alien Invaders or Just Plain Bugs?, MidgeMan Returns - the Predictions Continue*, and a large format illustrated book introducing the alien abduction phenomenon to children, *My Little Grey Buddy Binku* (number one of a projected series, which will probably culminate with *My Buddy Binku's Gonna Take Me Into Space And Never Bring Me Back*

Plus of course, assorted articles and columns for various magazines, including Finland's *UFO Fab!!!*, the UK's own *Project Red Book*, and the underground US mag *Wierd Shit Times*.

Dear Tom,

What do you make of the SARS virus then?

Well dude, the truth is in the *real* acronym of the virus. Ha, they might *tell* you that it stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome... But, according to an informant of mine in the Centre for Disease Control, its real acronym is Space Alien Revenge System.

Its an extraterrestrial virus which was unleased by those lil' gray sumbitches for what happened at Roswell. Or Rendlesham. Or Shag Harbour. Or maybe somewhere else, I don't know. But they want revenge for something. Maybe being misrepresented in *Taken*.

Another researcher over here in the States, Alfonso DeSheiss, who is stupidly trying to outdo me in a series of ever-desperate attempts to become the USA's Even More Maverick Investigator of the Paranormal and UFOsTM has suggested SARS actually stands for Serious Attack by Rod Shit.

But he's just daft.

CLASSIC CASE NOW ON-LINE

The RAF Lakenheath-Bentwaters 'radar visual' incident of 1956 has long been regarded as one of the classic cases in the annals of UFOlogy.

This is one of the few incidents classified as 'unexplained' by the 1969 Colorado University UFO study commissioned by the US Air Force, which conceded that "the probability that at least one genuine UFO was involved appears to be fairly high."

But the true extent and complex nature of the events in East Anglia have never been fully revealed, and divining the truth from a mass of contradictory evidence has confounded even the most dedicated of UFO researchers.

Now for the first time in UFOlogical history, a website dedicated to an in-depth re-investigation of a classic case is available on-line at:

http://www.parcellular.fsnet.co.uk/Lakenheath.htm

The website is the product of three years work by the Lakenheath Collaboration - a team of British researchers that includes Martin Shough, David Clarke, Paul Fuller, Andy Roberts and Jenny Randles. Please remember the site remains under construction, with further documents (including several that are the subject of FOIA requests) to be added in the near future.

Building upon new testimony unearthed by Jenny, since 2000 extensive fieldwork by Clarke and Roberts has uncovered a host of new testimony and documentary evidence. Shough, the author of a detailed analysis of the case published in 1987, has compiled the existing and new material presented on the website.

Our front page opens with a surprise - a photograph dated 1955/56 showing the control console in the tower at RAF Bentwaters complete with UFO graffiti.

Follow the links into the body of the Lakenheath/Bentwaters/Neatishead incident of 13/14 August 1956. The Collaboration have gathered together all the available evidence, including new material relating to the RAF's response to the incident that has slowly emerged since 1996.

The re-investigation did not set out to debunk the case, but rather to look closer at what might have happened, with surprising results for both 'believers' and 'skeptics.' We present the evidence and take care to separate facts from speculation. We provide no resolution as it emerges that Lakenheath-Bentwaters is a far more complex and multi-layered mystery than was ever suspected in 1969.

All five contributors, despite having differing approaches and opinions, agree this is an instructive case and its re-investigation has brought to light information that not only overturns all previous accounts, but provides the sort of data that scientists claim has been previously lacking in the field of UFOlogy.

The site contains:

a.. More than 270 text and image files, including in addition to the original USAF intelligence reports and other Blue Book documents:

b.. 22 new official British Royal Air Force and Ministry of Defence documents;

c.. 36 new interview transcripts and statements from pilots, ground personnel and operations staff;

d.. 23 web-pages of in-depth commentary and analysis, fully interlinked;

e.. 14 pages of meteorological data, with detailed tables, charts and analysis;

f.. 14 pages of detailed radar and avionics specifications;

g.. 30 archived letters between investigators and principal witnesses between 1975 and 2001;

Plus much more, with numerous links and bibliographical references to research material.

The Lakenheath Collaboration would be pleased to receive your comments, criticisms and contributions to what we hope will be a on-going peer review process of our evolving case file.